

100. (Unchanged) The method of claim 99, wherein said change in broadcasting schedule is local to said at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

II. REMARKS

Applicants submit the foregoing claim amendments and cancellations for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the instant application. The amendments introduce no new matter.

Claim 6 has been amended to recite “at least one” for the occurrence of “one” to clarify that the claimed invention is not limited to just “one” of the recited components. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claims 5-6, 8-14, 20, 23, 27-31, 35, 38, 41, 44, 52, 55, 61-62, 70, 81 & 93 have been amended to replace the term “contain” (or its variants) with the more conventional transitional term “include” (or its variants). No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claim 42 has been amended to delete “all of” to further clarify the invention. No new matter is added by this amendment.

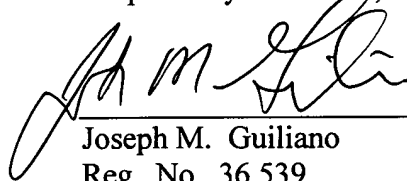
Claim 85 has been amended to correct a minor inadvertency. No new matter is added by this amendment.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the foregoing amendments and allowance of the instant application.

If the Examiner has any remaining informalities to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appendix A

Applicants' Marked-Up Claim Language

2. (Unchanged) A method of communicating programming to at least one user in a network, said network comprising at least one programming origination station, a plurality of intermediate transmission stations, and a plurality of user stations, each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations receiving programming from said at least one programming origination station and retransmitting said received programming to at least one of said plurality of user stations, said method comprising the steps of:

scheduling a time for transmitting said programming from each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to said at least one user, said scheduled time differing from intermediate station to intermediate station;

communicating to a computer at each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations said scheduled time for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said programming to said at least one user;

transmitting said programming to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations;

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to receive and store said programming for a period of time; and

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said received and stored programming at said scheduled time for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

3. (Unchanged) A method of communicating programming to at least one user in a network, said network comprising at least one programming origination station, a plurality of intermediate transmission stations, and a plurality of user stations, each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations receiving programming from said at least one programming origination station and retransmitting said received programming to at least one of said plurality of user stations, said method comprising the steps of:

scheduling one of a channel and a frequency for transmitting said programming from each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to said at least one user, said one of said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency differing from intermediate station to intermediate station;

communicating to a computer at each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations said one of said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said programming to said at least one user;

transmitting said programming to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations;

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to select and store said programming for a period of time; and

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said selected and stored programming on said one of said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

4. (Unchanged) A method of communicating programming to at least one user in a network, said network comprising at least one programming origination station, a plurality of intermediate transmission stations, and a plurality of user stations, each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations receiving programming from said at least one programming origination station and retransmitting said received programming to at least one of said plurality of user stations, said method comprising the steps of:

scheduling one of a time and a channel and a frequency for transmitting a portion of said programming from each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to said at least one user, said portion of said programming differing from intermediate station to intermediate station;

communicating to a computer at each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations said one of said scheduled time and said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency in order for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said programming to said at least one user;

transmitting said programming to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations;

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to receive at least some of said programming for a period of time; and

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said at least some of said programming at said one of said scheduled time and said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

5. **(Twice Amended)** A method of signal processing in a network having at least one intermediate transmission station and at least one ultimate receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first signal to said at least one intermediate transmission station, said first signal [containing] including at least one identification datum;

controlling said at least one intermediate transmission station a first time on the basis of information one of [contained] included in and communicated to be processed with said first signal, said first step of controlling including:

(1) communicating at least a portion of said first signal to a storage location, said at least a portion of said first signal including said at least one identification datum; and

(2) storing said at least a portion of said first signal and said at least one identification datum;

controlling said at least one intermediate transmission station a second time on the basis of information one of [contained] included in and communicated to be processed with said first signal, said second step of controlling including:

- (1) selecting said first signal;
- (2) selecting a second signal, said selected second signal [containing] including at least a portion of a mass medium programming presentation;
- (3) modifying at least a portion of said second signal; and
- (4) transmitting said modified at least a portion of said second signal; and outputting said mass medium programming presentation at said at least one ultimate receiver station.

6. **(Amended)** The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of receiving at said at least one intermediate transmission station a signal [containing] including at least one from the group consisting of:

- (1) local-formula-and-item information;
- (2) formula-and-item-of-this-transmission information;
- (3) one of video, audio, and print;
- (4) an intermediate generation set;
- (5) a program instruction set;
- (6) meter-monitor information; and
- (7) a transmission schedule.

7. **(Unchanged)** The method of claim 5, wherein at least one of said first signal and said second signal is selected at a selected time, said method further comprising the steps of:

receiving a timing control signal at said at least one intermediate transmission station; and

selecting said at least one of said first signal and said second signal based on said timing control signal.

8. **(Amended)** The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one identification datum is at least part of a timing control signal, said method further comprising the step of receiving a transmission schedule which one of [contains] includes said at least one identification datum and is effective to select said first signal at a selected time based on said at least one identification datum.

9. **(Amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein said mass medium programming presentation includes video and said selected first signal [contains] includes a video image to be presented one of in combination with and sequentially with said video of said mass medium programming presentation [contained] included in said second signal.

10. **(Amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein said mass medium programming presentation includes audio and said selected first signal [contains] includes an audio presentation to be presented one of in combination with and sequentially with said audio of said mass medium programming presentation [contained] included in said second signal.

11. **(Amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein said mass medium programming presentation includes print and said selected first signal [contains] includes one of text information and graphic information to be presented one of in combination with and sequentially with said print of said mass medium programming presentation [contained] included in said second signal.

12. **(Amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein said second signal is modified on the basis of one of at least one data control instruction and at least one processor control instruction [contained] included in said first signal, said method further comprising the step of inputting at least a portion of said first signal to a computer.

13. **(Amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein said second signal [contains] includes higher language code and said second signal is modified by placing information into said higher language code, said method further comprising the step of assembling said higher language code at one of said at least one intermediate transmission station and said ultimate receiver station.

14. **(Amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein said second signal [contains] includes higher language code which is assembled at said at least one intermediate transmission station and controls said ultimate receiver station, said method further comprising the step of linking assembled higher language code at said at least one intermediate transmission station.

15. **(Unchanged)** A method of signal processing in a network having at least one intermediate transmission station and at least one ultimate receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a first signal and at least one identification datum in said network;
modifying a second signal at said at least one intermediate transmission station based on at least one of said stored first signal and said stored at least one identification datum, said modified second signal operating at said at least one ultimate receiver station to output part of a mass medium programming presentation; and
transmitting said modified second signal.

16. (Unchanged) The method of claim 15, wherein said mass medium programming presentation is a combined medium presentation and said part of said mass medium programming presentation is one of video, audio, print, and a television programming segment.

17. (Unchanged) A method of signal processing in a network having a plurality of receiver stations, each of said plurality of receiver stations being one of an intermediate transmission station and an ultimate receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one instruct signal which is effective to perform one of:

(a) effecting a transmitter station to modify a signal to operate at said plurality of receiver stations to output part of a mass medium programming presentation; and

(b) effecting a first receiver station to modify a signal to operate at a second of said plurality of receiver stations to output part of a mass medium programming presentation;

receiving a transmitter control signal which operates in said network to communicate said at least one instruct signal to a transmitter; and

transmitting said transmitter control signal and a first of said at least one instruct signal.

18. (Unchanged) The method of claim 17, wherein a command is operative to control transmission of mass medium programming, said method further having one step from the group consisting of:

transmitting said mass medium programming to at least one of said transmitter station and said first receiver station in accordance with said command;

transmitting said mass medium programming from said transmitter station in accordance with said command; and

controlling a selective transfer device to communicate said mass medium programming at said first receiver station in accordance with said command.

19. (Unchanged) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a transmission schedule; and
transmitting at least one of mass medium programming and a second of said at least one instruct signal according to said transmission schedule.

20. (Amended) A method of signal processing in a network, said method comprising the steps of:
receiving at a plurality of receiver stations at least one signal transmitted from one of a remote broadcast transmitter station and a remote cablecast transmitter station;
storing and modifying said at least one signal at a first of said plurality of receiver stations based on information [contained] included in said at least one signal; and
outputting part of a mass medium programming presentation at a second of said plurality of receiver stations based on said stored and modified at least one signal.

21. (Unchanged) The method of claim 20, wherein said received at least one signal is one of a television signal and a radio signal, said method further comprising the step of detecting at least one control instruction in said received at least one signal.

22. (Unchanged) The method of claim 20, wherein said received at least one signal is one of a multichannel broadcast signal and a multichannel cablecast signal, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting at least a portion of said one of said multichannel broadcast signal and said multichannel cablecast signal in which to detect at least one control instruction; and

transferring said selected at least a portion of said one of said multichannel broadcast signal and said multichannel cablecast signal to one of a control signal detector and a digital detector.

23. **(Three Times Amended)** A method of signal processing in a network having at least one intermediate transmission station and at least one ultimate receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first signal to said at least one intermediate transmission station, said first signal [containing] including a data portion and at least one identification datum;

receiving at said at least one intermediate transmission station a second signal [containing] including at least a portion of a mass medium programming presentation;

controlling said at least one intermediate transmission station a first time in accordance with said first signal, said first step of controlling including:

1) communicating at least a portion of said first signal to a storage location, said at least a portion of said first signal including said data portion; and

2) storing said at least a portion of said first signal, including said data portion;

controlling said at least one intermediate transmission station a second time on the basis of information one of [contained] included in and communicated to be processed with said first signal, said second step of controlling including:

1) selecting said stored data portion;

2) selecting at least a portion of said second signal;

3) modifying said selected at least a portion of said second signal; and

4) transmitting said modified at least a portion of said second signal; and

outputting said mass medium programming presentation at said at least one ultimate receiver station.

24. (Unchanged) The method of claim 2, wherein said programming is television programming, said television programming including audio and full motion video.

25. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said programming is television programming, said television programming including audio and full motion video.

26. (Unchanged) The method of claim 4, wherein said programming is television programming, said television programming including audio and full motion video.

27. **(Amended)** A method of communicating programming to at least one subscriber in a network, said network including at least one programming origination station, at least one intermediate transmission station, and at least one subscriber station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving and storing programming at said at least one intermediate transmission station, said programming including mass medium programming and computer programming;

receiving an information transmission from at least one of said at least one origination station and said at least one subscriber station, said information transmission including a control signal, said control signal designating at least a portion of said programming;

detecting said control signal and passing said control signal to a computer at said intermediate transmission station; and

controlling said at least one intermediate transmission station based on said control signal, said step of controlling including the steps of:

- (1) selecting said mass medium programming and delivering said mass medium programming to a transmitter;
- (2) selecting said computer programming;
- (3) communicating said computer programming to said transmitter before a specific time; and
- (4) transmitting to said at least one subscriber station a signal [containing] including said mass medium programming and said computer programming.

28. **(Amended)** A method of communicating programming to at least one subscriber in a network, said network including at least one programming origination station, at least one intermediate transmission station, and at least one subscriber station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving and storing programming at said at least one intermediate transmission station, said programming including an image and computer programming;

receiving an information transmission from at least one of said at least one origination station and said at least one subscriber station, said information transmission including a control signal, said control signal designating at least a portion of said programming;

detecting said control signal and passing said control signal to a computer at said at least one intermediate transmission station; and

controlling said at least one intermediate transmission station based on said control signal, said step of controlling including the steps of:

- (1) selecting said image and communicating said selected image to a transmitter;
- (2) communicating said computer programming to said transmitter with said selected image; and

(3) transmitting to said at least one subscriber station a signal [containing] including said image and said computer programming.

29. **(Amended)** A method of communicating image programming and computer programming to at least one subscriber in a network, said network including at least one programming origination station, at least one intermediate transmission station, and at least one subscriber station, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving first programming at said at least one programming origination station;

(2) receiving a control signal designating at least a portion of said first programming, which is effective to accomplish at least one of:

(a) effecting said at least one intermediate transmission station to select said image programming and communicate said selected image programming to a transmitter, communicate said computer programming to said transmitter with said selected image programming, and transmit to said at least one subscriber station a signal [containing] including said selected image programming and said communicated computer programming; and;

(b) effecting a receiver to select said image programming and communicate said selected image programming to at least one output device; communicate said computer programming to at least one processor, and output to said at least one subscriber station said selected image programming and said communicated computer programming; and

(3) transmitting said first programming and said control signal.

30. **(Amended)** An intermediate transmission station, comprising:

at least one receiver means for receiving at least one information transmission, said at least one information transmission including a control signal and programming, said programming including mass medium programming and computer programming;

at least one transmitter means;

at least one selective transfer means; and

at least one control means for detecting said control signal and controlling said selective transfer means, based on said control signal, selecting said mass medium programming and delivering said mass medium programming to said at least one transmitter, selecting said computer programming, communicating said computer programming to said transmitter before a specific time, and controlling said transmitter to transmit to at least one subscriber station a signal [containing] including said selected mass medium programming and said selected computer programming.

31. **(Amended)** A method of communicating programming to subscribers in a network, said network including one or more programming origination stations, a plurality of intermediate transmission stations, and a plurality of subscriber stations, each intermediate transmission station receiving programming from one of said origination stations and retransmitting said received programming to at least one of said subscriber stations, each intermediate transmission station including one or more memories and a switch operatively connected to said one or more memories, said method comprising the steps of:

storing at each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations data of predetermined capacities;

transmitting programming to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations;

transmitting to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations data that identify said programming or a subject matter [contained] included in said programming;

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to receive and store said programming for a period of time;

controlling said switch at each intermediate transmission station to communicate said received and stored programming in accordance with said stored data of said predetermined capacities; and

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said received and stored programming to at least one subscriber station.

32. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31, wherein each switch includes a plurality of inputs or a plurality of outputs and said predetermined characteristics specify at least one source of input to or device that receives output from said switch.

33. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of programming a computer to control at least one intermediate transmission station according to said stored predetermined characteristics.

34. (Cancelled.)

35. (Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations transmits said programming to a subscriber in a broadcast or cablecast programming channel transmission, said method further comprising the steps of:

receiving from said one or more programming origination stations a signal [containing] including some other programming of said broadcast or cablecast programming channel transmission; and

controlling each switch at said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to communicate said other programming from a receiver to a transmitter.

36. (Unchanged) The method of claim 35, further comprising the steps of:
communicating a schedule to at least one controller; and
controlling at least one intermediate transmission station to communicate said
programming according to said schedule.

37. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31, wherein said switch at each of
said plurality of intermediate transmission stations comprises one or more of a digital
switch and a matrix switch.

38. (**Amended**) A method of communicating programming to subscribers
in a network, said network including one or more programming origination stations, a
plurality of intermediate transmission stations, and a plurality of subscriber stations, each
intermediate transmission station receiving programming from said origination stations,
each intermediate transmission stations including one or more selective communications
devices, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving programming at said one or more programming origination
stations;

(2) receiving, at said one or more programming origination stations, data
identifying said programming or a subject matter [contained] included in said
programming, said data effective to:

(a) effect at least a first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations
to receive and store said programming for a period of time and retransmit said
programming to at least one of said plurality of subscriber stations, wherein said one or
more selective communications devices at said at least a first intermediate transmission
station are controlled based on data of one or more predetermined transmission station
capacities; or

(b) effect at least a second of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to receive and store said programming for a period of time and retransmit said programming to at least one of said plurality of subscriber station, wherein said one or more selective communications devices at said at least a second of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations are controlled based on data of one or more predetermined transmission station capacities; and

(3) transmitting said programming and said data that identify said programming or a subject matter [contained] included in said programming.

39. (Unchanged) The method of claim 38, wherein said one or more selective communications devices at said at least a first intermediate transmission station comprise a switch which a plurality of outputs and said predetermined transmission station capacities specify a plurality of memories and/or transmitters operatively connected to said plurality of outputs.

40. (Unchanged) The method of claim 38, wherein said one or more selective communications devices at said at least a second intermediate transmission station comprise a switch which a plurality of inputs and outputs and said predetermined receiver station capacities specify a plurality of memories and/or receivers operatively connected to said plurality of inputs and outputs.

41. (**Amended**) The method of claim 38, wherein said one or more selective communications devices at at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations comprise a plurality of storage locations, said method further comprising the step of embedding said data in a signal [containing] including said programming before transmitting said programming to said at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

42. **(Amended)** The method of claim 38, wherein said data that identify said programming comprise a schedule, said method further comprising the step of transmitting at least some of said schedule to said at least a second of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations before transmitting [all of] said programming.

43. **(Cancelled.)**

44. **(Amended)** An intermediate transmission station, comprising:
one or more first receiver means for receiving from one or more remote programming origination stations programming and data that identify said programming or a subject matter [contained] included in said programming;

one or more first storage means for storing data of predetermined capacities;

one or more first switch means operatively connected to said one or more first receiver means for communicating said programming;

one or more second storage means operatively connected to at least one of said one or more first receiver means and said one or more first switch means for storing said programming;

one or more transmitter means operatively connected to at least one of said one or more first switch means and said one or more second storage means to transmit said programming; and

one or more first control means for controlling said one or more first switch means based on said data of one or more predetermined capacities.

45. **(Unchanged)** The intermediate transmission station of claim 44, further comprising one or more second receiver means operatively connected to said one or more

first switch means for receiving one or more broadcast or cablecast programming channels from said one or more remote programming origination stations.

46. (Unchanged) The intermediate transmission station of claim 45, further comprising one or more second switch means operatively connected to said one or more second receiver means for communicating said programming to said one or more first receiver means.

47. (Unchanged) The intermediate transmission station of claim 45, further comprising one or more first detector means operatively connected to at least one of said first and second receiver means for detecting said data.

48. (Unchanged) The intermediate transmission station of claim 45, further comprising one or more second detector means operatively connected to at least one of said first and second receiver means for detecting predetermined automatic processing information.

49. (Unchanged) The intermediate transmission station of claim 44, wherein said one or more first switch means are operatively connected to a first of said one or more second storage means, said station further comprising:

one or more second switch means operatively connected to at least a second of said one or more second storage means;

one or more second control means operatively connected to said one or more second switch means for controlling said one or more second switch means to communicate said programming to said at least a second storage means.

50. (Unchanged) The intermediate transmission station of claim 49, further comprising one or more third control means operatively connected to said at least a second storage means for controlling said at least a second storage means to store or communicate said programming.

51. (Unchanged) The intermediate transmission station of claim 50, further comprising one or more detector means operatively connected to one or more of said first, second, and third control means for detecting automatic processing information.

52. (**Amended**) A method of communicating programming to subscribers in a network, said network including one or more programming origination stations, a plurality of intermediate transmission stations, and a plurality of subscriber stations, each intermediate transmission station receiving programming from one of said origination stations and retransmitting said received programming to at least one of said subscriber stations, said method comprising the steps of:

storing at each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations predetermined intermediate transmission station capacities;

transmitting predetermined intermediate transmission station automatic processing information to said plurality of intermediate transmitter stations;

transmitting programming to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations;

transmitting to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations data that identify said programming or a subject matter [contained] included in said programming;

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to receive and store said programming for a period of time; and

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said received and stored programming to at least one subscriber station; wherein each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations is controlled based on said

predetermined intermediate transmission station capacities and said predetermined intermediate transmission station automatic processing information.

53. (Unchanged) The method of claim 52, wherein at least a portion of said predetermined intermediate transmission station capacities and said predetermined intermediate transmission station automatic processing information is processed according to a schedule, said method further comprising the step of transmitting a signal which operates at least one of said intermediate transmission stations to communicate said schedule to one of a computer and a memory.

54. (Unchanged) The method of claim 52, wherein at least a portion of said predetermined capacities applies to a programmable device and said predetermined intermediate transmission station automatic processing information comprise operating instructions which program said device.

55. (Amended) A method of communicating programming to a subscriber in a network, said network including at least one programming origination station, an intermediate transmission station, and at least one subscriber station, said intermediate transmission station receiving said programming from said at least one programming origination station and transmitting said programming to said at least one subscriber station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of units of said programming at said intermediate transmission station;

receiving a control signal at said intermediate transmission station, said control signal [containing] including information that designates for delayed transmission a portion of said programming;

detecting said control signal at said intermediate transmission station and passing said control signal to a computer; and

controlling said intermediate transmission station based on said control signal to:

select only a portion of said plurality of units of said programming;

communicate said selected only a portion of said plurality of units of said programming to a storage location;

store said selected only a portion of said plurality of units of said programming at said storage location; and subsequently

transmit said selected only a portion of said plurality of units of said programming to said at least one subscriber station.

56. (Unchanged) The method of claim 55, wherein said control signal is effective at said intermediate transmission station to instruct a selective transmission device.

57. (Unchanged) The method of claim 55, wherein said control signal includes a schedule.

58. (Unchanged) The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of programming said computer to control said intermediate transmission station according to predetermined characteristics of said intermediate transmission station.

59. (Unchanged) The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of storing predetermined characteristics that specify one of a source of input to a selective transmission device and a device that receives output from a selective transmission device.

60. (Unchanged) The method of claim 55, wherein said intermediate transmission station is controlled on a basis of predetermined characteristics, said method further comprising the step of storing said predetermined characteristics.

61. (Amended) A method of communicating programming to a subscriber in a network, said network including at least one programming origination station, an intermediate transmission station, and at least one subscriber station, said intermediate transmission station receiving said programming from said at least one programming origination station and transmitting said programming to said at least one subscriber station, comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of units of said programming;

receiving a control signal [containing] including information that designates for storage for delayed transmission a portion of said programming, wherein said control signal has effect at said intermediate transmission station to select only a portion of said plurality of units of said programming and subsequently transmit said selected only a portion of said plurality of units of said programming to said at least one subscriber station; and

transmitting said plurality of units of said programming and said control signal.

62. (Amended) An intermediate transmission station, comprising:
receiving means for receiving a plurality of units of programming and receiving a control signal, said control signal [containing] including information that designates for delayed transmission a portion of said plurality of units of programming;

storage means for storing at least a portion of said plurality of units of programming;

a transmitter; and

control means for detecting said control signal, selecting only a portion of said plurality of units of programming, controlling communication of said selected only a portion to said storage means, controlling said storage means to store said selected only a portion in said storage means, and controlling said transmitter to subsequently transmit said selected only a portion to at least one subscriber station.

63. (Unchanged) A method of communicating programming to subscribers in a network, said network including at least one programming origination station, a plurality of intermediate transmission stations, and a plurality of subscriber stations, said plurality of intermediate transmission stations receiving programming from said at least one programming origination station and retransmitting said received programming, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of programming units in said network;

scheduling at least a first time for transmitting at least a first of said stored programming units from at least a first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations;

controlling said network, based on said step of scheduling, to organize said stored plurality of programming units for transmission;

controlling said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said at least said first of said stored plurality of programming units to at least one of said subscriber stations at said at least said first scheduled time from said step of scheduling.

64. (Unchanged) The method of claim 63, wherein said step of controlling said network to organize said stored plurality of programming units for transmission includes:

selecting a storage location from which to communicate said at least said first of said plurality of programming units to a transmitter;

communicating said at least said first of said plurality of programming units to said selected storage location; and

storing said at least said first of said plurality of programming units at said selected storage location.

65. (Unchanged) The method of claim 64, further comprising the step of performing one of organizing and assembling a second of said plurality of programming units to be transmitted with said at least said first of said plurality of programming units.

66. (Unchanged) The method of claim 65, wherein said step of performing one of organizing and assembling includes storing said second of said plurality of programming units at said storage location immediately before said at least said first of said plurality of programming units.

67. (Unchanged) The method of claim 65, wherein said step of performing one of organizing and assembling includes storing said second of said plurality of programming units at said storage location immediately after said at least said first of said plurality of programming units.

68. (Unchanged) The method of claim 64, wherein said at least said first of said plurality of programming units is received in said at least one programming origination station and said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations is adapted to generate information to be communicated with said at least said first of said plurality of programming units, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating at least one programming signal to said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, said at least one programming signal including said at least said first of said plurality of programming units; and

transmitting from said at least one programming origination station at least one instruct signal which operates at a receiver station to perform at least one of generating and clearing, said receiver station being one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations and said plurality of subscriber stations.

69. (Cancelled.)

70. (Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein said at least said first of said plurality of programming units is of a duration, only some of said duration [containing] including a time interval of specific relevance, said method further comprising the step of transmitting, from said at least one programming origination station, data which enables said receiver station to generate receiver specific information to be outputted during said interval of specific relevance.

71. (Unchanged) The method of claim 70, wherein said receiver station is one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations and said data includes at least one of formula information, item information, and a second time.

72. (Unchanged) The method of claim 70, wherein said receiver station is one of said plurality of subscriber stations and said data includes at least one of news and transaction information.

73. (Unchanged) The method of claim 63, wherein said network includes a first selective transfer device located in one of: (1) said at least said first of said plurality

of intermediate transmission stations and (2) said at least one of said plurality of subscriber stations, and wherein said step of controlling said network to organize said stored plurality of programming units for transmission includes:

controlling a second selective transfer device in said network to communicate said at least said first of said plurality of programming units to said first selective transfer device; and

controlling said first selective transfer device to store said at least said first of said plurality of programming units.

74. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73, wherein said first selective transfer device includes a memory.

75. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73, wherein said first selective transfer device includes a switch.

76. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73, wherein said first selective transfer device includes a signal generator.

77. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73, wherein said at least said first of said plurality of programming units is received in said at least one programming origination station, said method further comprising the step of transmitting a first storage control signal, said first storage control signal operative in said network to perform at least one of (1) controlling said first selective transfer device to output said at least said first of said plurality of programming units, and (2) controlling said second selective transfer device to store said at least said first of said plurality of programming units.

78. (Unchanged) The method of claim 77, wherein said plurality of subscriber stations includes said first selective transfer device, said method further comprising the step of receiving said storage control signal at said at least one programming origination station.

79. (Unchanged) The method of claim 77, wherein at least one of said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations and said at least one of said plurality of subscriber stations selects said at least said first of said plurality of programming units based on an identifier, said method further comprises the step of transmitting code which enables said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations and said at least one of said plurality of subscriber stations to identify said at least said first of said plurality of programming units.

80. (Unchanged) The method of claim 79, wherein said code enables said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations and said at least one of said plurality of subscriber stations to decrypt said first programming unit.

81. (Amended) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of communicating a schedule to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, said schedule [containing] including said at least said first scheduled time.

82. (Unchanged) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of programming a computer to control at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations according to at least one predetermined characteristic of said at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

83. (Unchanged) The method of claim 63, wherein at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations includes a selective transfer device with one of a plurality of inputs and a plurality of outputs, said method further comprising the step of storing at least one predetermined characteristic that specifies at least one of: (1) at least one source of input to said selective transfer device, and (2) at least one device that receives output from said selective transfer device.

84. (Unchanged) The method of claim 63, wherein at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations is controlled on the basis of at least one predetermined characteristic of said at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, said method further comprising the step of storing said at least one predetermined characteristic of said at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

85. (**Amended**) The method of claim 63, wherein said plurality of programming units [are] is received in said at least one programming origination station, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating a programming signal to said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, said programming signal including said plurality of programming units;

scheduling a plurality of second times, each of said second times being one of (1) a second time for transmitting said at least said first of said plurality of programming units, and (2) a time for transmitting a second of said plurality of programming units; and

communicating at least one schedule to said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, said schedule including said at least said first time and said plurality of second times.

86. (Unchanged) The method of claim 85, wherein said at least one schedule serves as a basis for selecting said at least said first of said plurality of programming units at said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations and said step of communicating said at least one schedule is performed before said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations transmits said at least said first of said plurality of programming units at said at least said first time.

87. (Unchanged) The method of claim 85, further comprising the step of selecting, in said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, a subset of said plurality of programming units.

88. (Unchanged) The method of claim 13, wherein said selecting step is based on at least one predefined characteristic of said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

89. (Unchanged) The method of claim 87, wherein said selecting step is based on said schedule, wherein said schedule is at least partially based on at least one predetermined characteristic of said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, and wherein said method further comprises the step of storing, in said at least one programming origination station, said at least one predetermined characteristic of said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

90. (Unchanged) The method of claim 87, wherein said subset of said plurality of programming units includes all of said stored plurality of programming units.

91. (Unchanged) The method of claim 63, wherein said plurality of programming units are received in said at least one programming origination station, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating at least one programming signal to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, said at least one programming signal including said plurality of programming units; and

communicating a plurality of instruct signals to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, said plurality of instruct signals operating at said plurality of intermediate transmission stations (1) to store said at least said first of said plurality programming units and (2) to retransmit a second of said plurality of programming units immediately upon receipt of said second of said plurality of said programming units.

92. (Unchanged) The method of claim 91, wherein said second of said plurality of programming units includes video, wherein said at least said first of said programming units includes one or more of audio and data, and wherein said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations is adapted to delay communication of said one or more of said audio and data.

93. (Amended) The method of claim 91, wherein at least one of (1) said at least said first of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations and (2) said at least one of said plurality of subscriber stations assembles processor instructions based on code [contained] included in said plurality of programming units, said method further comprises the step of transmitting one or more of assembly language and higher language code in said plurality of programming units.

94. (Unchanged) The method of claim 91, wherein said plurality of intermediate transmission stations include a plurality of processors, said method further comprises the steps of:

programming a first of said plurality of processors to communicate at least one of said plurality of instruct signals to a second of said plurality of processors; and

programming said second processor to control at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations based on said at least one of said plurality of instruct signals.

95. (Unchanged) The method of claim 91, wherein at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations is adapted to communicate to processor information detected in a throughput of a broadcast or cablecast transmission, said at least one programming signal and said plurality of instruct signals being communicated in said throughput, said method further comprising the steps of:

processing a control instruction which operates said at least one of at said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to increase throughput capacity by (i) lengthening the time devoted to said throughput, (ii) increasing a portion of said transmission devoted to said throughput at a given time, or (iii) using transmission location outside said transmission.

96. (Unchanged) A method of communicating programming to subscribers in a network, said network including at least one programming origination station, a plurality of intermediate transmission stations, and a plurality of subscriber stations, said plurality of intermediate transmission stations receiving programming from said at least one programming origination station and retransmitting said received programming, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving a programming signal;

(2) receiving a schedule signal indicating at least one scheduled time for transmitting at least one of a plurality of programming units from at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, said plurality of programming units stored in said network and organized for transmission, said schedule signal effective to achieve at least one of:

(a) effecting said at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said at least one of said programming units to at least one of said subscriber stations at said scheduled time; and

(b) effecting a receiver station to transmit said at least one of said programming units to at least one of said subscriber stations at said scheduled time; and

(3) transmitting said programming signal and said schedule signal.

97. (Unchanged) The method of claim 96, wherein said programming signal includes said plurality of programming units, wherein said schedule signal includes a schedule indicating said at least one scheduled time, and wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

selecting, in said at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, a subset of said programming units based on at least one predetermined characteristic of said at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations;

organizing, in said at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, each of said plurality of programming units in said selected subset based on said schedule; and

transmitting, from said at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations, each of said organized programming units to at least one of said subscriber stations.

98. (Unchanged) The method of claim 97, wherein said step of selecting is performed by selecting all of said plurality of programming units.

99. (Unchanged) The method of claim 97, further comprising the step of modifying said schedule to change said at least one preferred time for transmission of said programming units according to a change in a broadcasting schedule.

100. (Unchanged) The method of claim 99, wherein said change in broadcasting schedule is local to said at least one of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.